(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the crimes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per provisions contained in the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for taking appropriate steps for checking crimes in accordance with the existing laws. Area-wise crime data are not maintained at the Central level.

[Translation]

Outstanding Crop Insurance amount

471. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the insurance amount to be paid to the farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme is outstanding in all the districts of Maharashtra for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the payments made as insurance claims during the Eight Five Year Plan, year-wise

(d) the details of the outstanding amount; and

(e) the time by which all the outstanding dues are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING). (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) All admissible claims except for Rabi 1995-96 season have been paid. The payment of claims for Rabi 1995-96 season is outstanding on account of some delay in the submission of yield data by the State.

(c) The year-wise amount of claims paid to Maharashtra State during the last four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan are given as under :

Years	Amount (in Rs.)
1992-93	1,30,62.587.84
1993-94	92,32,543.15
1994-95	7,43,17,335.55
1995-96	13,66,50,618.27

(d) The claims amounting to Rs. 39,33,582.19 for Rabi 1995-96 are pending payment.

(e) The claims for Rabi 1995-96 are under process at present and the admissible claims would be paid shortly.

[English]

Creamy Layer Among OBCs

472. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all States have given their suggestions and views or the issue of 'creamy layer' amongst the backward classes with regard to the reservations policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand taken by each State Government on the issue; and

(d) the steps being taken to arrive at a decision ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Orange Production

473. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimates of Orange production during the current session in the Orange growing States;

(b) whether inspite of heavy production the prices of oranges are rising considerably; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to alleviate this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The production data for the current season is not available.

(b) No Sir. The prices are fluctuating depending upon the volume of arrivals in the terminals market as can be seen from the statement enclosed showing monthly prices and market arrivals of oranges in two major markets viz. Delhi and Calcutta during the two years of 1995 and 1996.

(c) In order to regulate supplies to the markets to prevent major fluctuations in prices, the Government is implementing schemes for supporting development of infrastructure for post harvest handling and marketing of fruits and vegetables which includes cold storage etc.